

1           5.     (Amended) A needlefelt as claimed in claim 4, wherein  
2 during needling of the batt in the needlefelting machine the batt is curved in the  
3 direction of its travel through the needlefelting machine.

1           6.     (Amended) A needlefelt as claimed in claim 5, wherein the  
2 needleboard is correspondingly curved.

1           7.     (Amended) A needlefelt as claimed in claim 4, wherein the  
2 needlefelting machine comprises two needleboards at respective locations which  
3 are mutually displaced along the direction of travel of the batt through the  
4 needlefelting machine.

1           8.     (Amended) A needlefelt as claim in claim 7, wherein the  
2 two needleboards are respectively disposed to needle the batt from mutually  
3 opposite sides of the batt.

1           9.     (Amended) A needlefelt as claimed in claim 8 wherein the  
2 needlefelt incorporates a scrim, and wherein the first of said two needleboards in  
3 the direction of travel of the batt through the needlefelting machine is disposed to  
4 needle the layered combination of batt and scrim from the side opposite to the  
5 scrim.

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Please cancel claims 20 and 21.

Please add the following new claims 22-25:

1 22. (Newly Added) A needlefelt as claimed in claim 4, wherein  
2 said batt of fibres is juxtaposed to a scrim prior to being passed through said  
3 needlefelting machine.

1 23. (Newly Added) A needlefelt as claimed in claim 22,  
2 wherein said batt of fibres prior to being juxtaposed to said scrim is subjected to  
3 a preliminary needling step through a needlefelting machine to provide a partial  
4 consolidation and fibres entanglement of said batt.

1 24. (Newly Added) A needlefelt as claimed in claim 23,  
2 wherein during said preliminary needling step said batt is curved in its direction  
3 of travel through the needlefelting machine.

1 25. (Newly Added) A needlefelt as claimed in claim 4, wherein  
2 said needlefelt has a fibre density which varies across its thickness.

### REMARKS

#### **I. Election/Restriction**

The applicant wishes to confirm the withdrawal of the election of Claims 10 and 11 as part of Group II.

#### **II. Information Disclosure Statement**

The applicant wishes to confirm that only one Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed. A primary IDS was filed together with